

PRESS RELEASE

Ombudsman Meets with Newly Appointed Minister and Associate Minister for the Legislative Assembly and the Office of the Ombudsman

Apia, Government Building, Level 5, – August 27, 2026

The Ombudsman, Vui Clarence Nelson, paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Minister for the Legislative Assembly and the Office of the Ombudsman, Afioga Tea To'oala Peato, and Associate Minister Afioga Tuiā Pu'a Fuatogi Letoa, to extend his congratulations and best wishes on their appointments.

The appointment of Afioga Tea To'oala Peato represents another significant chapter in his longstanding service to Samoa. As Samoa's oldest sitting Member of Parliament, his appointment reflects his extensive experience and continued contribution to public service.

Afioga Tea To'oala Peato was sworn into office by the Head of State, His Highness Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aletoto Sualauvi II, on 18 August 2026¹. Afioga Tuiā Pu'a Fuatogi Letoa took his oath of office to serve in his new capacity as Associate Minister during a ceremony held in the Cabinet Chambers on Wednesday, 19 August 2026.²

During the courtesy visit, the Ombudsman conveyed his congratulations and best wishes to both Ministers as they undertake their new ministerial responsibilities. The meeting also provided an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of maintaining a strong and constructive working relationship between the Office of the Ombudsman and the Ministry.

The Ombudsman noted the Hon Minister's extensive experience in Parliament and public service and expressed his confidence that his knowledge and advice ("tofa ma le faautautaga") would be an invaluable contribution to the work of the Office. As well the breadth of knowledge and experience of the Hon Associate Minister.

The Office of the Ombudsman looks forward to continued cooperation with the Minister and the Ministry in supporting its mandate to promote and protect human rights, good governance, accountability and the rule of law in Samoa.

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¹ Savali Newspaper - *Tea To'oala Peato Appointed New Minister of Cabinet* by Jasmine Netzler

² Savali Newspaper - *Tuiā Pu'a Fuatogi Letoa Sworn-In as Associate Minister* by Katherine Matuauto